

We've all heard the phrase "the devil made me do it!" Now, usually that is said in jest, but there is a spiritual reality to part of this- the devil is always at work trying to make us slip and fall. Now, he can't force us to do anything, but it is true he desires us to fail.

The temptations of Jesus can be a little confusing, because it seems very odd that the devil would have the audacity to tempt Jesus. He does- partially because of his own pride, but also because of him misunderstanding the humanity of Jesus and its interaction with His divinity. He expected Jesus to be easier to tempt. It is still a very odd situation because we would not expect him to be so brazen- but he is the one who thought himself better than God!

For us, as we look at the temptations- we should be aware of two realities: first, that our humanity struggles much more than Jesus, because we struggle with concupiscence (the desire and predisposition to sin). The other factor that we should be aware of is that our set of temptations is unique and particular to each of us. While the devil cannot read our thoughts he can watch us and send us temptations and things to get us away from God, and in ways that we may struggle with more than others. He will watch our weaknesses and will use them against us! We do have something better though- and that is the strength and grace that Jesus gives us.

This Sunday, as we watch Jesus being tempted in the desert, may we be filled with strength and resilience against sin, and the awareness the devil really does want us to do it- even if he cannot force us to "do it!"

~Fr. Belken



St. Denis & St. Lawrence

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<p>St. Denis Parish</p>	<p>St. Lawrence Parish</p>
<p>135 N. Winchester, Benton, MO 63736 PO Box 127, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3864 Web: www.stdenisbenton.org</p>	<p>1001 State Highway A, New Hamburg, MO PO Box 247, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3317 Web: www.stlnh.org</p>
<p>Pastor: Rev. Daniel Belken</p>	
<p>Office Manager: Mrs. Lisa Spalding, lisa@stdenisbenton.org Bookkeeper: Mrs. Marilyn Burford Parish Council President: Mr. Jeff Diebold</p>	<p>Office Manager: Mr. Billy Ray Johnson, billyray@stlnh.org Maintenance: Mr. Henry Beussink & Mr. Gerard Dirnberger Parish Council President: Mr. Gary Reischman</p>
<p>St. Denis School</p>	<p>Sacraments</p>
<p>105 N. Winchester Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3017 Web: stdenisbenton.eduk12.net Email: lindsay@stdenisbenton.org Principal: Mrs. Lindsay Wikle Parish & School Maintenance: Mr. Larry Essner School Board President: Mr. Glenn Collom</p>	<p>Saint Denis Mass: Sunday at 7:00am and 10:00am Wednesday-Friday at 8:00am Confessions: Tuesday @ 7:00pm or by appt.</p> <p>Saint Lawrence Mass: Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 8:30am Tuesday at 6:00pm and Wednesday at 7:00am Confessions: Saturday @ 3:15pm or by appt.</p>

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	24	Adoration 7-9pm
Wed.	25-8am	Collin Crocket
Thu.	26- 8am	Felix Enderle
Fri.	27-8am	Louis & Anna Glastetter Fam
Sun.	1-7am	Gil Robert
Sun.	1-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday March 1, 7:00am

Lector: Anthony Scherer
 EM: Carla Robert
 Servers: Jonah & Nora Hann, Eli Eftink
 Greet\ Gifts: George & Natalie Eftink

Sunday March 1, 10:00am

Lector: Kay Elkins
 EM: Kay Elkins
 Servers: Ella Mack, Brooklyn LeGrand, Levi Newton
 Greet\ Gifts: Jim & Linda Wade

Parish Stewardship

February 15, 2026

Envelopes:	\$4,969.00
Loose:	\$228.00
Total Collection:	\$5,197.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	+\$188.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday, February 28:
 Candie & Ray Halter, Jessica O'Guin, JoAnn Easter
 Decorating Committee-February: Lisa Neumeyer

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	24- 6pm	Ralph & Margie Klipfel
Wed.	25- 7am	Arnold & Christine Dirnberger
Thurs	26- 7am	Cletus & Norma Gosche
Fri.	27-7am	Lorena Beussink
Sat.	28-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	1-8:30am	Earl & Henrietta Dirnberger

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday February 28, 4:00pm

Lector \ EM: Frank Glueck
 Musician: Cheryl Kern
 Cantor: Jamie Essner
 Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Heisserer
 Servers: Noah & Caleb Vetter, Bennett Essner

Sunday March 1, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Dorothy Deason
 Musician: Cheryl Kern
 Cantor: Kari Bickings
 Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Brian Heuring
 Servers: Ty & Callen Glastetter, Willow Bickings

Parish Stewardship

February 15, 2026

Envelopes:	5,257.00
Loose:	\$192.00
Online:	\$165.00
Total Collection:	\$5,614.00

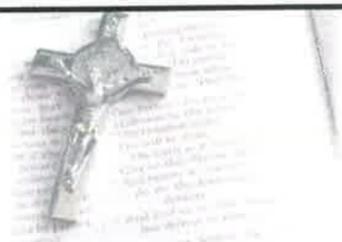
ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, February 27:
 Chairman: Doug & Sue Kern
 Pat & Jan Kiefer, Jeff & Kara King,
 Darrell & Libby Klipfel

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-MARCH 1, 2026

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a
 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10
 Matthew 17:1-9



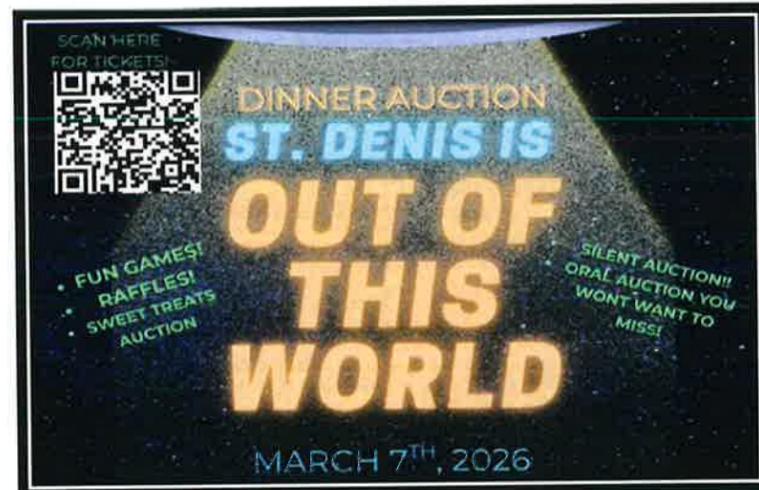
ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS



MO-Scholars applications close on April 2nd, visit brightfuturesfund.org/springfield-cape-girardeau to apply for a scholarship to St. Denis Catholic School! Call or email Mrs. Wikle with any questions!

Thank you from Virginia Ross for your prayers, cards and concerns during her recent surgery. She is home recovering and doing well!

 Please Remember in Prayer: Deloma Penrose, Doris Priggel Family of Cheryl Anne Scherer



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent, 1pm at St. Denis (with school), 7pm at St. Lawrence
 Confessions will follow immediately after the Stations at each parish.

LENTEN MISSION - "FULLY ALIVE"

Tuesdays of Lent at 7pm in St. Denis Church
 Come join us during this Lent for very short sessions (<30 mins each) to receive encouragement on how to become more fully alive this Lent!
 Optional times of Adoration and Confessions follow until 9pm.

Reminder: All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence- meaning that they are meatless. This is binding from all Catholics over the age of 14 years old!

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
 February 22-Norma Seyer
 March 1-Jackie Griffith

 The Deadline for the *Brown Bag Dumpling Meal* has been extended to Sunday, February 22.

Signup sheet is in the back of church for working the Church's Lenten Fish Fry on March 6.



Please welcome Richy Johnson to the Church, as he completed his steps of initiation last Sunday. Welcome, Richy!

Attention all bakers of//for St Denis. This year, an 8.8" keepsake wooden spoon with the handle inscribed "2026 St Denis Dinner Auction Sweet Treats Winner" will be awarded to the baker whose item has the highest bid in this auction.
 Let's make the 2026 Sweet Treats Auction *Out of this World!*



Sincerely, Crystal Gosche